

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUCAR 02612 01 OF 02 191003Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 H-01 HA-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /040 W
-----076732 191016Z /11

O P 190910Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9138
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO /AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 4670
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 2612

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, RO
SUBJ: DETENTION OF US JOURNALIST
REF: BUCHAREST 2563

1. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT DONALD KIRK
HAS ADVISED EMBASSY THAT HE WAS DETAINED BY ROMANIAN AUTHOR-
ITIES FOR SEVEN HOURS ON EARLY MORNING OF APRIL 17 WHILE
TRAVELLING FROM BUDAPEST TO BUCHAREST VIA "ORIENT EXPRESS."
ROMANIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TOOK 33 PAGES OF HIS ARTICLES
AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL, THEN RELEASED HIM.

2. KIRK INITIALLY ARRIVED IN ROMANIA WITH A TOUR GROUP
MARCH 22 AFTER TRAVELLING IN THE PRC. OTHER MEMBERS OF
TOUR GROUP DEPARTED MARCH 29, AND KIRK REMAINED ON TOURIST
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUCAR 02612 01 OF 02 191003Z

VISA TO DO REPORTORIAL WORK ON EVE OF CEAUSESCU VISIT.
INTERVIEWS WERE ARRANGED FOR HIM BY AGERPRES OFFICIAL
FLOREA TUIU; ACCORDING TO KIRK, TUIU SAID NOTHING ABOUT
ADVISABILITY OF JOURNALISTIC VISA, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY PRESS
ATTACHE POINTED THIS OUT TO KIRK SHORTLY AFTERWARD. KIRK
SPENT MARCH 20-APRIL 11 IN BUCHAREST AND SIBIU, INTERVIEW-
ING SEVERAL "PASSPORT DISSIDENTS" (REFTEL) WHILE IN BUCHA-

REST. HE WENT TO BELGRADE APRIL 12, WHERE HE FILED STORY APPEARING IN LONDON "DAILY TELEGRAPH" APRIL 14 UNDER "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" BY-LINE. ARTICLE DEALT SUBSTANTIALLY WITH "PASSPORT DISSIDENTS," AS DID MEMO KIRK TELEXED TO BONN "NEWSWEEK" OFFICE FROM BELGRADE.

3. AFTER A TRIP TO BUDAPEST, KIRK DEPARTED FOR BUCHAREST ON "ORIENT EXPRESS" APRIL 16 TO USE TAROM TICKET BUCHAREST-NEW YORK APRIL 19. TRAIN CROSSED BORDER AT CURTICI AROUND MID-NIGHT, WHEN MAJOR OF ROMANIAN CUSTOMS AND INTERPRETER ENTERED KIRK'S COMPARTMENT. OFFICIALS MADE CAREFUL BAGGAGE SEARCH, INSPECTING RECENT ARTICLES AND REPORTEDLY SAYING: "YOU'VE WRITTEN LIES. YOU DID NOT GET THIS MATERIAL IN ROMANIA. WHY DID YOU SEND THIS FROM BELGRADE?" KIRK WAS ASKED TO LEAVE TRAIN AT CLUJ AT 2:30 A.M. CUSTOMS MAJOR AND INTERPRETER ALSO DISEMBARKED, SPENDING NEXT FIVE HOURS ATTEMPTING CONTACT SUPERIORS IN BUCHAREST.

4. AROUND 7:30 KIRK WAS HANDED STATEMENT SAYING THAT FOLLOWING "UNDECLARED PAPERS" HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM:
-- TELEX FROM BELGRADE ("DAILY TELEGRAPH" ARTICLE);
-- TELEX INCLUDING PERSONAL COMPLAINTS OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS WISHING TO EMIGRATE (MEMO TO "NEWSWEEK");
-- "TIME/WORLD" FILE ON CEAUSESCU 60TH BIRTHDAY, INCLUDING COMMENT THAT "HIS WORKS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN INTERMINABLE";
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUCAR 02612 01 OF 02 191003Z

-- COPY OF KIRALY LETTER;
-- COPY OF GOMA LETTER TO CEAUSESCU;
-- RECENT "WASHINGTON POST" ARTICLE ON HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN ROMANIA. SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED PAGES OF EMBASSY DATA ON ROMANIAN ECONOMY WERE ALSO TAKEN, EARLIER, AND RETURNED.

5. KIRK REFUSED SIGN STATEMENT WITHOUT RECEIVING COPY; STATEMENT WAS THEN WITHDRAWN IN FAVOR OF CUSTOMS'S OFFICIAL'S CERTIFICATE NOTING RETENTION OF 33 PAGES OF INFORMATION DUE TO CONTRAVENTION OF CUSTOMS LAWS. KIRK SIGNED THE CERTIFICATE, WAS GIVEN COPY, AND WAS ISSUED TOURIST VISA VALID FOR FIVE DAYS. HE WAS CAUTIONED ABOUT INTERFERING IN ROMANIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND URGED TO WRITE THE TRUTH, BUT WAS TOLD HE WAS FREE TO TRAVEL AS HE LIKED. HE WAS TOLD PAPERS COULD BE RETRIEVED LATER. AT NO POINT, KIRK SAYS, DID ROMANIAN OFFICIALS JUSTIFY HIS TREATMENT WITH LACK OF JOURNALISTIC VISA, NOR WAS HE GIVEN CUSTOMS FORM ON WHICH TO DECLARE ANY PAPERS. KIRK WAS ALLOWED DEPART FOR BUCHAREST AT 9:30.

6. CHARGE CALLED ON DEPFONMIN GLIGA APRIL 18 TO "CALL SITUATION TO ATTENTION OF MFA" AND TO ASK WHETHER KIRK MIGHT RECEIVE CONFISCATED PAPERS BACK BEFORE APRIL 19

DEPARTURE. CHARGE EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES OF KIRK'S VISIT, INCLUDING FACTS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE JOURNALIST VISA; THAT HE HAD LEFT ROMANIA TO FILE STORIES; AND THAT INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED UPON HIS REENTRY INTO COUNTRY. GLIGA, WHILE UNAWARE OF ALL DETAILS, SAID THAT TWO OF PAPERS TAKEN WERE LETTERS BY GOMA AND KIRALY, WHICH LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT KIRK HAD NOT COME HERE "TO KNOW ROMANIA AND TO WRITE ABOUT ITS DEVELOPMENT, THE CURRENT REALITIES." HE SAID SUCH INTEREST "DOESN'T SERVE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE VERY DAYS WHEN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU WAS IN THE UNITED STATES TO FURTHER DEVELOP THOSE RELATIONS THROUGH HIS MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING." HE CHARACTERIZED KIRK'S ACTIVITY AS BEING IN "FLAGRANT CONTRAST" WITH OUR MUTUAL DESIRE FOR BETTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BUCCHAR 02612 01 OF 02 191003Z

RELATIONS AND OPINED THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTIVITY BY ANY JOURNALIST. CHARGE REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT "ENCOURAGED" KIRK'S ACTIVITY, BUT THAT WHILE EMBASSY AGREED THAT TIMING OF KIRK'S VISIT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF HIS INTEREST IN "DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES", WAS UNFORTUNATE IN OUR VIEW KIRK WAS NEVERTHELESS CARRYING OUT LEGITIMATE FUNCTION AS JOURNALIST, AND HIS INTEREST IN THESE SUBJECTS WAS LEGITIMATE, SINCE THESE PROBLEMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUCCHAR 02612 02 OF 02 191009Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 H-01 HA-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /040 W
-----076887 191015Z /14

O P 190910Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9139
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 2612

ARE ALSO A PART OF CONTEMPORARY REALITY, EVEN IF NOT MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THAT REALITY. WE WERE ESPECIALLY CURIOUS ABOUT "CUSTOMS LAWS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHICH KIRK'S DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN CONFISCATED, AND HOPED THEY WOULD BE RETURNED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE AT 0930 APRIL 19. GLIGA PROMISED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF WHETHER MATERIALS CONFISCATED HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO COUNTRY IN VIOLATION OF ROMANIAN LAW. IF THAT TURNS OUT TO BE CASE, MATERIALS CANNOT BE RETURNED; OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE.

7. COMMENT. CEAUSESCU VISIT TIMING SEEMS TO US TO HAVE BEEN MAJOR FACTOR IN INCIDENT. ROMANIANS HAVE SHOWN SENSITIVITY TO INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM CONDUCTED BY TOURISTS LIKE KIRK (AND KIRALY'S INTERVIEWERS EARLIER ON), BUT KIRK COVERED HIMSELF BY CALL ON AGERPRESS, AND THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUCAR 02612 02 OF 02 191009Z

WAS NO REAL HINT OF DISPLEASURE STEMMING FROM THIS FACTOR. LONG CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CLUJ AND BUCHAREST, AND FINAL CLUJ INVITATION TO KIRK TO TRAVEL WHERE HE LIKED AND WRITE TRUTH, MAY SUGGEST SOME BUREAUCRATIC CROSSED WIRES. WE DOUBT HE WILL GET HIS PAPERS BACK, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF SHORT TIME AVAILABLE BETWEEN CALL ON GLIGA AND HIS DEPARTURE. HOWEVER, KIRK HIMSELF SEEMED MORE FASCINATED THAN DISTURBED AT INCIDENT--IT IS HIS FIRST VISIT TO EASTERN EUROPE--AND, SINCE BOTH SIDES HAVE NOW MADE TRADITIONAL POINTS, REMAINING MINOR MYSTERIES ARE PROBABLY NOT WORTH CLEARING UP.

8. FOR LONDON. UK EMB INFORMS KIRK REPORTED INCIDENT TO GELEGRAPH, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE CABLED TEXT OF BOTH APRIL 14 ARTICLE AND ANY PRINTED OUTCOME OF SUBSEQUENT CONTRETEMPS.
SIMONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR02612
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780167-0450
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780441/aaaabiur.tel
Line Count: 216
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 06948bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BUCHAREST 2563
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2923662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF US JOURNALIST
TAGS: PINS, RO, US, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, (KIRK, DONALD)
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/06948bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014